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***SOURCES OF LUMBER FOR
FURNITURE PLANTS IN NORTH CAROLINA
1963***

by
Milton Applefield

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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS



This is the third lumber source survey of the furniture industry in North Carolina sponsored by the Hardwood Research Council. The report provides helpful information on lumber purchase trends, by species and procurement areas, based on comparable data obtained 5 and 10 years ago.

The survey was conducted through the combined efforts of the Hardwood Research Council, Statesville, N. C., the Southern Furniture Manufacturers' Association, High Point, N. C., and the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Asheville, N. C.

The assistance of Mr. J. T. Ryan, Executive Vice President, Southern Furniture Manufacturers' Association, for the distribution and collection of questionnaires is appreciated.

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SOURCES OF LUMBER FOR FURNITURE PLANTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

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The furniture industry of North Carolina purchased over 347 million board feet of lumber (including particle board) during 1963. Of this volume, 304 million feet came from domestic sources, with approximately 42 percent from sawmills within the State (table 1). Both the total volume purchased and that obtained from within the State are slightly less than the comparable survey indicated 5 years ago.

The 1963 data are based on a 40-percent sample¹ of the furniture industry in North Carolina. Total State information was projected on the basis of dollar sales.

In addition to domestic lumber, North Carolina furniture companies purchased 13,902,000 board feet of foreign lumber in 1963. This was 2 million feet, or 14 percent, less than purchased in 1958. The breakdown of foreign species spanning three surveys taken at 5-year intervals is given in table 2.

As noted in the first two surveys, there are considerable differences in the percentage of lumber purchased from different states (fig. 1). Generally, more lumber was purchased from states located

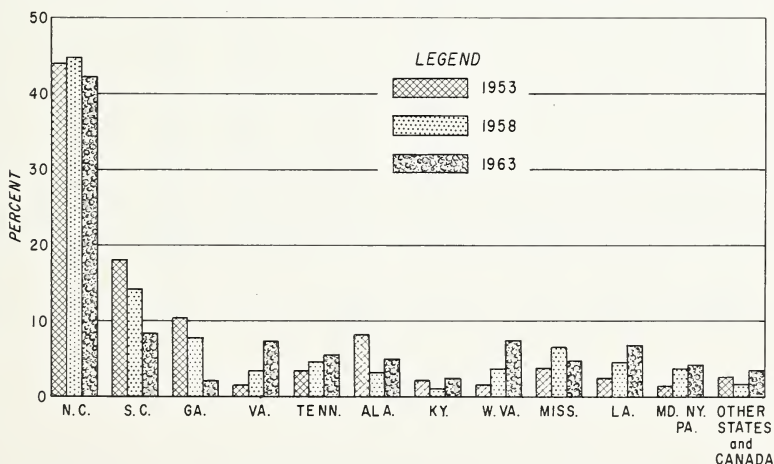


Figure 1. — Sources of domestic lumber used in North Carolina furniture plants, 1963.

¹The sample is based on the dollar sales value of those furniture firms which responded to the questionnaires submitted to them.

Table 1. — Species and Sources of Domestic Lumber Purchased

Species	Total domestic lumber purchased, by species						
			N. C.	S. C.	Ga.	Va.	Ten.
	<i>Thousand bd. feet</i>	<i>Percent of total</i>					
Ash -----	3,822	1.3	1,665	740	-----	500	
Basswood -----	6,503	2.1	1,060	-----	-----	1,348	1
Beech -----	196	0.1	178	-----	-----	-----	
Birch -----	995	0.3	770	-----	-----	75	
Buckeye -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Butternut -----	252	0.1	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Cedar -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Cherry -----	3,882	1.3	22	-----	-----	10	
Chestnut -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Cottonwood -----	1,625	0.5	250	875	-----	-----	-----
Elm -----	10,064	3.3	200	42	412	-----	-----
Gum (sap and red) -----	21,510	7.1	4,983	5,953	1,825	1,312	-----
Gum (tupelo and black) -----	11,548	3.8	4,072	1,055	1,298	115	-----
Gum (mixed) -----	2,150	0.7	2,150	-----	-----	-----	-----
Hackberry -----	7,281	2.4	-----	718	-----	-----	-----
Hemlock -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Hickory -----	5,488	1.8	1,375	125	-----	625	1
Magnolia -----	1,438	0.5	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Maple (hard) -----	18,162	6.0	1,618	-----	-----	552	-----
Maple (soft) -----	15,341	5.0	7,132	350	-----	675	-----
Oak (red) -----	13,304	4.4	4,622	1,400	-----	1,250	-----
Oak (white) -----	1,098	0.4	1,098	-----	-----	-----	-----
Oak (mixed) -----	22,220	7.3	14,320	2,400	375	2,700	1
Pecan -----	11,145	3.7	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Pine (ponderosa) -----	25	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Pine (white) -----	5,156	1.6	4,588	350	-----	-----	-----
Pine (southern yellow) -----	2,833	0.9	2,145	188	500	-----	-----
Redwood -----	30	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sycamore -----	5,780	1.9	660	30	130	500	-----
Walnut -----	6,236	2.0	825	-----	-----	2,385	1
Willow -----	11,872	3.9	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Yellow-poplar -----	110,815	36.4	72,690	11,112	1,775	9,175	8
Mixed hardwoods -----	3,624	1.2	2,312	250	-----	1,062	-----
Total domestic volume -----	304,395	100.0	128,735	25,588	6,315	22,284	16
Volume delivered by truck -----	113,112	-----	74,998	14,232	702	8,862	5
Percent domestic volume by states -----	-----	100.0	42.3	8.4	2.1	7.3	-----

chased by Furniture Plants in North Carolina, 1963

Source and volume of lumber purchased

Ala.	Ky.	W. Va.	Miss.	La.	Ark. & Mo.	N. Y., Md. & Pa.	Fla.	Western states	Other states
<i>Thousand board feet</i>									
-----	385	215	125	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	422	2,345	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	75	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	252	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	838	-----	-----	-----	2,542	-----	-----	460
-----	-----	-----	-----	250	250	-----	-----	-----	-----
1,462	-----	-----	2,178	1,860	-----	3,150	-----	-----	448
4,875	-----	-----	1,250	1,312	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2,518	-----	-----	-----	2,490	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2,740	162	-----	1,468	1,198	490	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	1,000	1,088	-----	-----	-----	150	-----	-----	-----
375	-----	-----	688	-----	-----	-----	375	-----	-----
-----	100	7,870	-----	-----	-----	6,188	-----	-----	1,002
-----	-----	1,930	-----	-----	3,532	1,000	-----	-----	50
1,282	-----	3,500	-----	1,250	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	500	500	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1,288	-----	-----	3,440	4,702	1,715	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	25	-----
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	30	-----
305	-----	-----	1,530	1,175	1,000	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	878	192	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	408
-----	-----	-----	4,250	6,872	750	-----	-----	-----	-----
25	3,750	3,738	-----	-----	-----	-----	500	-----	-----
14,870	7,197	22,543	14,929	21,109	7,737	13,030	875	55	2,368
250	2,608	3,878	-----	-----	-----	1,732	-----	-----	215
4.9	2.4	7.4	4.9	6.9	2.5	4.3	0.3	-----	0.8

north of North Carolina in 1963 than in the previous surveys, whereas states south of North Carolina provided less lumber.

Table 2 — Foreign lumber purchased by North Carolina furniture plants in 1953, 1958, and 1963

Species	1953	1958	1963
— Thousand board feet —			
African mahogany	1,047	854	332
Honduras mahogany	10,002	3,743	5,328
Philippine mahogany	890	3,729	2,000
Mixed mahogany	146	325	100
Other foreign woods	187	7,566	6,142
Total foreign	12,272	16,217	13,902

Significant differences in lumber purchases are also reflected by species volume changes (fig. 2). Volume gains were shown for mixed maple, hickory and pecan, willow, elm, basswood, beech, cottonwood, and white pine. Losses in volume purchased occurred in the mixed gums, hackberry, walnut, sycamore, cherry, birch, and yellow pine. The volume of particle board or chip board used in 1963 also showed a slight decline from the 1958 survey.

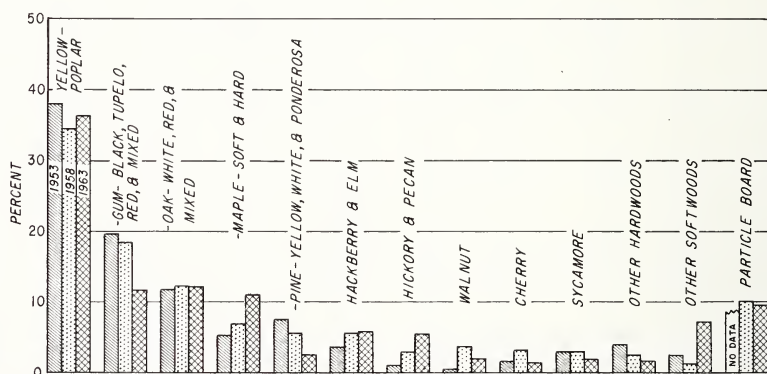


Figure 2. — Domestic lumber purchased by North Carolina furniture plants, 1963.

The survey reveals a decline in the percentage of domestic lumber that is being delivered by truck: 1953, 42.9; 1958, 49.9; and 1963, 37.2 percent.

It is encouraging that North Carolina continues as the principal supplier of hardwoods for its furniture industry. However, the data also reveal that during the past 10 years the industry has moved farther north to obtain the desired species and grades.

There is a heavy demand for quality hardwoods within the State's boundaries. This ready market should provide incentive for hardwood landowners to concentrate on their timberlands, and for the wood-using industries to provide leadership and direction for fulfilling their needs. It also presents a challenge to our research organizations to solve the many technical problems involved with the growing of quality hardwoods and their proper utilization.

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